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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLANDFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1954.

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of Blandford:-

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District of Blandford. The Report is presented as follows:-

A. Vital Statistics.
B. General provisions of Health Services for the Area.
C. Sanitary circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.
2. Sewerage.
3. Dry Refuse and Salvage.
4. Nuisances and Complaints.
5. Summary of Inspections.

D. Housing.
E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
F. Factories and Workshops.
G. Rodent Control.
H. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their kindness and consideration. I have much appreciated the help and co-operation given to me by the staff of the public health department, officials in other departments and by my professional colleagues in practice in the area.

J.B.M. Mayes.

JULY, 1955.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BLANDFORD.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:-

CHAIRMAN:- S. B. Gillingham, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:- Colonel J.L. Jones.

COUNCILLORS:-

F. J. Ainsworth	Sir Randolf L. Baker, D.S.O., J.P., D.L.,
E.G. Bailey	F.B. Ball
Capt. Gordon M. Bateman	Miss A.G. Biddlecombe.
E.E. Cossins.	A.B.C. Davis.
P. L. Farquharson.	R. Farquharson, J.P.
S. Field.	Mrs. M.R. Goodbody.
Capt. T.C.B. Harbottle.	B.A.S. Hicks.
W.J. Hillier.	M. Hooper.
A.E. Lane.	Miss L.M.P. Lewis.
A.T.E. Marsh.	F.G. Morgan.
R.E.F. Parsons.	C.B.C. Roe.
Lt. Colonel E.W. Seymour, J.P.,	Lt. Colonel R.J.N. Solly.
O.F. Stevens.	Dr. R.M. Taylor.
Commander J.R.P. Thompson.	Lt. Colonel. A.L. Tidcombe. M.C.,
L. Tory.	L.W. Tory.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN:- Capt. T.C.B. Harbottle.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:- Miss A.G. Biddlecombe.

COUNCILLORS:-

F. B. Ball.

M. Hooper.

Miss L.M.P. Lewis

C.B.C. Roe.

Lt. Col. E.W. Seymour, J.P.

S. Field.

Lt. Col. R.J.N. Solly.

Dr. R.M. Taylor.

Commander J.R.P. Thompson

S.B. Gillingham, J.P.

Colonel J.L. Jones.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:- R.E.F. Parsons.

VICECHAIRMAN:- A.B.C. Davis.

COUNCILLORS:-

F.B. Ball.

Capt. G.M. Bateman.

Miss A.G. Biddlecombe.

W.J. Hillier.

A.E. Lane.

S.B. Gillingham, J.P.

Miss L.M.P. Lewis.

Lt. Col. E.W. Seymour, J.P.,

L. Tory.

L.W. Tory.

Colonel J.L. Jones.

Co-opted:-

Major W.P. Stratton.

Councillor Mrs. M.E. Goodbody.

The Public Health and Housing Committees of the Council deal with all matters concerning Public Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.B.M. Mayes, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR with combined duties as SURVEYOR.

G.S. C. Udall, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.F.S., (Eng.)

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

D. I. Davies M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. - left April, 1954.

M. Stockley. Cert R.S.I., M.S.I.A.-commenced May,1954.

The Medical Officer of Health holds in addition the following appointments:-

Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Blandford.

Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District of Wimborne.

Medical Officer of Health to the Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

School Medical Officer and Assistant Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

Office accommodation and clerical assistance is provided for the Medical Officer of Health jointly by the Authorities concerned.

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SECTION A
VITAL STATISTICS

Area of the Rural District..... 61, 717 acres.
Population as estimated by Registrar General..... 12, 990
Total number of inhabited houses on 31/12/54..... 3,017
Rateable value on 1st April, 1954.....£49,808.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954.
(As supplied by the Registrar General)

	Total	Male	Female.
LIVE BIRTHS			
Total Registered.....	196	96	100
Legitimate.....	188	89	99
Illegitimate.....	8	7	1
STILLBIRTHS			
Total registered (legitimate).....	6	5	1
DEATHS			
Total registered.....	85	55	30
Deaths of infants under one year of age.	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Total	Male	Female.
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other.....	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	5	5	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	2	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	2	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms.....	6	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	14	8	6
Coronary disease.....	8	7	1
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	-	1
Other heart diseases.....	26	18	8
Other circulatory disease.....	2	2	-
Pneumonia.....	2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	1	-
Other diseases of the respiratory system.....	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..... .	1	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	2	1	1
Congenital malformations.....	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	3	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents....	2	1	1
All other accidents.....	4	4	-

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Comparability factors
Births.....1.36. Deaths..... .. 1.25

The comparability factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out the differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and enable more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in the area.

	Blandford Rural	England and Wales.
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	15.09	15.28
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.....	20.52.	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.....	29.7	23.37
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	6.54.	11.3
Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population using comparability factor.	8.18	

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The Birth Rate for 1954 has risen, 15.09 in 1954, 14.73 in 1953, 14.25 in 1952.
Live births exceed the number of deaths by 111.
6 stillbirths were recorded in 1954, a similar number in 1953.

DEATHS

85 persons died in 1954, of these 59 were over 70 years of age. The death rate for 1954 has fallen, 8.18 in 1954, 9.27 in 1953, 7.53 in 1952.

There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, measles, scarlet fever, nor from poliomyelitis. There were no maternal deaths.

In 1954, no infant died under one year of age.

In England and Wales, the death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births was 25.5

SECTION B
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester continues to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice-cream, and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious, or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House, Blandford.

WELFARE CENTRE

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre at Milton Abbas, Blandford Camp and Blandford.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The Dorset County Council provide an Ante-Natal Clinic at Blandford.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Dorset County Council have provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district, which has proved satisfactory.

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SECTION C
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply	Number of Properties served.	Population served.	Source of Supply
rlton Marshall, Spetisbury, ndford St. Mary and part of gton Long.	256 including standpipes.	1057	Under the control of Blandford Borough . (main supply)
perne.	154	410	Under the control of Blandford Borough (main supply)
ton parish including ington.	147 including standpipes.	430 approx.	Bulk supply from Shaftesbury R.D.C.
e of Milton Abbas and on.	135 including standpipes.	925	Borehole 400 feet.
aston and Durweston.	227	870	Main water from borehole near the Stour at Bryanston School is supplied by the Borough of Blandford
rne and whole of Winterborne y and Turnworth.	All properties that are not in isolated areas.		Borehole 400 feet.
paine Village.	12 council houses 10 private houses (new) 3 food premises. Remainder by standpipe.		Borehole 80 feet.

WATER - Continued

During the year premises previously supplied with water from the Milton Abbey were connected to the Council's Milborne supply. Thus another unsatisfactory water supply has been closed down. No domestic premises are now supplied from the old source.

The supply in Durweston caused a great deal of trouble and there were many complaints from the Council house estate, the matter was eventually cleared by the Council's water manager working in conjunction with the Bryanston estate who maintain the supply in the village.

An increased number of samples were taken as a result of the Durweston trouble, and the number taken from private wells remained much the same as last year.

Classification	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Council owned and supplying public.....	24	2	26
Private estate supplying public.....	36	20	56
Private estate supplying council houses.....	13	6	19
Private wells.....	16	9	25
Other Local Authorities' supplying through Council's system.....	3	-	3
Public supplies not controlled by the Council.....	26	2	28

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

rish	Present system of drainage	Present system of Council Houses.	Remarks.
terborne ckland.	No system of drains. A small number of private septic tanks are installed.	45 council houses have small sewage disposal works.	
erborne echurch.	No system of drains.	19 council houses have septic tanks and underground filter system. Fairly satisfactory but subject to flooding.	
erborne ston.	No system of drains.	24 council houses. 2 groups of 12 houses share an efficient modern disposal works.	
orne St. ew.	Mainsewerage scheme.	6 council houses have been connected to the main sewer. 10 council houses have small S.T. system. 16 council houses have cess-pits and chemical closets. 28 council houses in course of construction have been connected to the main sewer.	Work has been completed on the Milborne / Milton Abbas joint sewerage scheme.
rpaine.	This village has old surface drains used as sewers and they discharge into a large catch pit. The effluent from which discharges into the river.	12 council houses have adequate sewage disposal works.	

arish	Present system of drainage.	Present system of Council Houses.	Remarks.
ilton.	No system of drains.	16 council houses have a septic tank system.	
arrant auncestor.	No system of drains.	4 council houses have septic tanks and trench soakaways. Not satisfactory.	
arnham.	No system of drains.	4 council houses have earth closets with cesspits for waste water.	
rrant wston.	No system of drains.	4 council houses have earth closets with cesspits for waste water.	
rrant nville.	No system of drains.	8 council houses have small efficient septic tank and underground soakaways.	
rrant nton.	No system of drains.	14 council houses have small efficient septic tank and underground soakaways.	
rrant shton.	No system of drains.	52 converted Nissen Huts connected to efficient sewage system	

e other parishes have no system of drainage and no council houses.

DRY REFUSE

The Council continues to have control of four tips, at Durweston, Winterborne Kingston, Milton Abbas and Farnham.

SALVAGE

During the year 11 tons 2 cwts of paper, together with $15\frac{1}{2}$ cwts of rags were collected compared with 8 tons 10 cwt of paper and $4\frac{3}{4}$ cwts of rags during 1953.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS

There was a slight reduction in the number of complaints received during the year, the total last year being 90. These complaints were made up as follows:-

Refuse	9
Drainage	28
Housing conditions	20
Rights of way	1
Aged persons	1
Food premises	2
Insects	3
Water	9
Miscellaneous	11

DETAILS OF VISITS

Nuisances and Complaints	111
Housing Acts	222
Meat and Food	48
Cowsheds and Dairies	6
Building byelaws	745
Water supplies (general)	74
Water samples	163
Drainage	346
Refuse disposal scheme and salvage	49
Infectious diseases	10
Factories and Workshops	54
Civil Defence	5
Milk Samples	5
Rats/Mice	3408

SECTION D
HOUSING

A. Number of new houses completed during the year:-

(1) By Local Authority:-

(a) With State Assistance for re-housing under Housing Act, 1936 and for overcrowding 0

(b) With State Assistance for other purposes 31

(c) Without State Assistance 0

(2) By other persons:-

(a) With State Assistance 0

(b) Without State Assistance 25

B. Number of new houses commenced during the year but not completed:-

(1) By Local Authority with State Assistance 12

(2) By other persons:-

(a) With State Assistance 0

(b) Without State Assistance 14

PLANS AND NEW BUILDINGS

Plans were submitted during the year for a total of 216 building projects, a large increase on the figures for 1953 (177). Installation of drainage systems account for practically all the increases.

One plan was rejected by the Council under the Building Byelaws, and a number were altered before approval could be given.

A few infringements of the byelaws were discovered, but these were put right after correspondance with the owners:-

New houses and flats	28
Drainage, reconstruction and additions	134
Agricultural buildings	20
Garages	19
Miscellaneous	15

SECTION E
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Routine inspections of food premises have been carried out during the year. A good standard of hygiene has been observed. This is encouraging, considering the difficulties of drainage and occasionally of the water supply.

The following items of food have been condemned, and certificates of condemnation issued:-

96 lbs marshmallow
15 lbs marshmallow
120 lbs beef
7 lbs kidney.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

The sampling officers of the Dorset County Council have taken routine samples of milk, either produced or distributed in the area. A summary of the results is appended:-

Ansty.	3 non-designated, 1 T.T.	All satisfactory
Bryanston .	1 non-designated, 1 T.T.	Both satisfactory
Blandford Camp.	1 pasteurised.	Satisfactory
Charlton Marshall.	2 T.T.	Both satisfactory
Durweston.	3 T.T.	2 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory
Farnham	1 non-designated, 1 accredited - Both satisfactory	
Hilton.	3 T.T., 1 non-designated.	All satisfactory
Milborne	11 non-designated.	10 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory.
Pimperne.	6 pasteurised.	All satisfactory
Spetisbury.	1 pasteurised.	Satisfactory.
Tarrant Gunville.	2 non-designated.	Both satisfactory.
Tarrant Keyneston.	2 non-designated.	Both satisfactory.
Winterborne Houghton.	4 non-designated, 1 pasteurised - 4 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory.	
Stourpaine.	61 pasteurised.	60 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory.
Winterborne Whitechurch.	6 non-designated, 6 TT, 1 pasteurised - All satisfactory.	
Winterborne Stickland.	1 pasteurised, 2 non-designated.	Pasteurised - satisfactory. Non-designated-Both unsatisfactory.
Winterborne Clenstone.	1 non-designated.	Satisfactory.

MILK
Methylene Blue Test.

This is used by the Public Health Laboratory for all Milk. It indicates the keeping quality by the time taken to reduce methylene blue under defined conditions.

Phosphatase Test.

This additional test is officially applied to pasteurised milk in order to determine whether the milk has been satisfactorily heat treated.

SECTION F
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The number of factories registered..... 78

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 - Part One of the Act.

1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used..... 12

2. Factories in which mechanical power is used..... 31

3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)..... 35

Number of inspections made..... 54
Number of informal notices..... 3
Number of notices complied with..... 1
Outworkers on register..... Nil

SECTION G
RODENT CONTROL

Type of property.

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural	All other including business and industrial.	Total
al number of properties Local Authority's district.	11	2500	250	97	2858
ber of properties inspected a result of:- (a) complaint	-	59	2	8	69
(b) survey.	11	2200	89	64	2364
ber of infested properties ated by Local hority.....	8	166	10	8	192

SECTION H
PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet fever..... 11
Whooping cough..... 54
Acute Poliomyelitis.. 1
Measles..... 2
Acute Pneumonia..... 28
Erysipelas..... 1
Food poisoning..... 1
Tuberculosis..... 8

rculosis

er of cases on Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1954.

Pulmonary.....	16 males.	6 Females.
Non-Pulmonary.....	7 males.	3 Females.

Poisoning.

One person suffered from food poisoning. This person ate pork n taken from a tin opened 36 hours previously. The tin was sent to the County ratory, but no organisms were isolated.

AGE INCIDENCE

'.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles.	Acute Pneumonia.	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning.	Tubercu-losis.
r 1.		2						
2.		8						
4		12			2			2
9	2	26			2			
14		6			5			1
24	9		1		13		1	
44				1				2
64					5			2
Unknown.					1	1		1